

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 ~~sub~~ 1. A method of realizing personalized information for a
2 user from multiple information sources, comprising:
3 establishing a user profile for the user based on various
4 interests of the user;
5 establishing a virtual unified space;
6 populating the virtual unified space with a plurality of
7 different virtual media collections in accordance
8 with the user profile; and
9 browsing the unified space under user control.

1 2. A method as in claim 1 wherein the virtual unified
2 space is a virtual library.

1 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein the virtual unified
2 space comprises a floor of a virtual library.

1 4. A method as in claim 1 wherein the user profile
2 establishing step comprises loading from memory a previously
3 created user profile.

1 5. A method as in claim 1 wherein the user profile
2 establishing step comprises:
3 presenting a variety of questions to the user about the
4 user's interests, and
5 creating a user profile based on the user's answers to
6 the questions.

1 6. A method as in claim 1 wherein the populating step
2 comprises:
3 acquiring information items from a plurality of
4 information sources of different media type in
5 accordance with the user profile; and
6 placing the information items into the virtual multiple
7 media collections based on their respective
8 information sources.

1 7. A method as in claim 1 wherein the populating step
2 comprises:
3 comparing the user profile with a collective profile
4 database to establish a similar collective profile;
5 acquiring information items from a plurality of
6 information sources of different media type in
7 accordance with the collective profile; and
8 placing the information items into the virtual multiple
9 media collections based on their respective
10 information sources.

1 8. A method as in claim 7 further comprising:
2 identifying a selection of at least one of the
3 information items by the user from one of the media
4 collections; and
5 updating the user profile in accordance with the
6 identifying step.

1 9. A method as in claim 1 wherein the media collections
2 comprises respective pluralities of similarly classifiable
3 information items, further comprising:

4 identifying a selection of at least one of the
5 information items by the user from one of the media
6 collections; and
7 updating the user profile in accordance with the
8 identifying step.

1 10. A method as in claim 1 further comprising augmenting
2 the user profile in accordance with a collaborative data base.

1 11. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 searching the virtual unified space with a search engine
3 under user control; and
4 updating the user profile in accordance with the
5 searching step.

1 12. A method as in claim 11 further comprising storing
2 results of the searching step as media collections in the
3 unified space for browsing by the user.

1 13. A method as in claim 12 further comprising filtering
2 results of the searching step in accordance with the user
3 profile.

1 14. A method as in claim 13 further comprising
2 prioritizing results of the searching step in accordance with
3 the user profile.

1 ^{sub} 15. A receiver apparatus for obtaining content from
2 ^{part} multiple information sources for viewing by a viewer,
3 comprising:
4 an input/output ("I/O") controller including an Internet
5 connection input, a video output, and a selector
6 input;
7 an adaptive user profile database;
8 a filter coupled to the adaptive user profile database,
9 the filter being coupled to the I/O controller for
10 filtering information from the Internet connection
11 input in accordance with the adaptive user profile
12 database;
13 means for displaying a virtual unified space through the
14 video output;
15 means for populating the virtual unified space with
16 virtual multiple media collections using the
17 filtered information from the implicit filter; and
18 means for browsing the unified space in accordance with
19 the selector input.

1 16. A receiver apparatus as in claim 15 wherein the media
2 collections comprises respective pluralities of similarly
3 classifiable information items, further comprising:
4 means for identifying a selection of one of the
5 information items by the user from one of the media
6 collections; and
7 means for updating the adaptive user profile database in
8 accordance with the identifying step.

1 17. A receiver apparatus as in claim 16 further
2 comprising means for augmenting the adaptive user profile
3 database in accordance with a collaborative data base.

1 18. A method as in claim 17 wherein the I/O controller
2 further comprises an input for receiving television programs,
3 including additional information through the television
4 program and electronic program guide information, the filter
5 being coupled to the I/O controller for filtering information
6 from the television program input in accordance with the
7 adaptive user profile database.

1 ^{sub} 19. A computer program product comprising a computer
2 ₁₃ readable medium having program logic recorded thereon for
3 enabling a computer-enabled apparatus to display personalized
4 information for a user from multiple information sources,
5 comprising:

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6 means for establishing a user profile for the user based
7 on various interests of the user; ✓
8 means for establishing a virtual unified space; ✓
9 means for populating the virtual unified space with a
10 plurality of different virtual media collections in
11 accordance with the user profile; and ✓
12 means for browsing the unified space under user control. ✓

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1 20. A computer program product as in claim 19 wherein the
2 media collections comprises respective pluralities of
3 similarly classifiable information items, further comprising:
4 means for identifying a selection of one of the
5 information items by the user from one of the media
6 collections; and
7 means for updating the user profile in accordance with
8 the identifying step.

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1 21. A computer program product as in claim 20 further
2 comprising means for augmenting the user profile with
3 reference to a collaborative data base.

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